MARVEL

EDMONDSON
GERADS
SCHOONOVER

018

FRANK CASTLE was once a decorated Marine officer, an upstanding citizen, and family man. Then his family was violently taken from him when they were accidentally killed in a mob hit. From that day forward, Frank Castle shed his old identity and became a force of cold, calculated retribution and vigilantism known as

THE PUNISHER

PREVIOUSLY

Frank traced all his recent troubles, the Dos Soles Gang, the Mexico attack, the Howling Commandos, to a single source: a rogue U.S. Secretary who was masterminding war and turmoil on domestic soil for power and profit. The Punisher hunted down the Secretary, but when confronted with both the magnitude of political corruption AND the new Captain America fighting to stop his vigilante ways, Frank came to the realization that his place was on the street.

And so Frank returned to L.A. with his sights set on cleaning up his new home. First up: Hector Del Sol.

A GOOD DAY'S WORK

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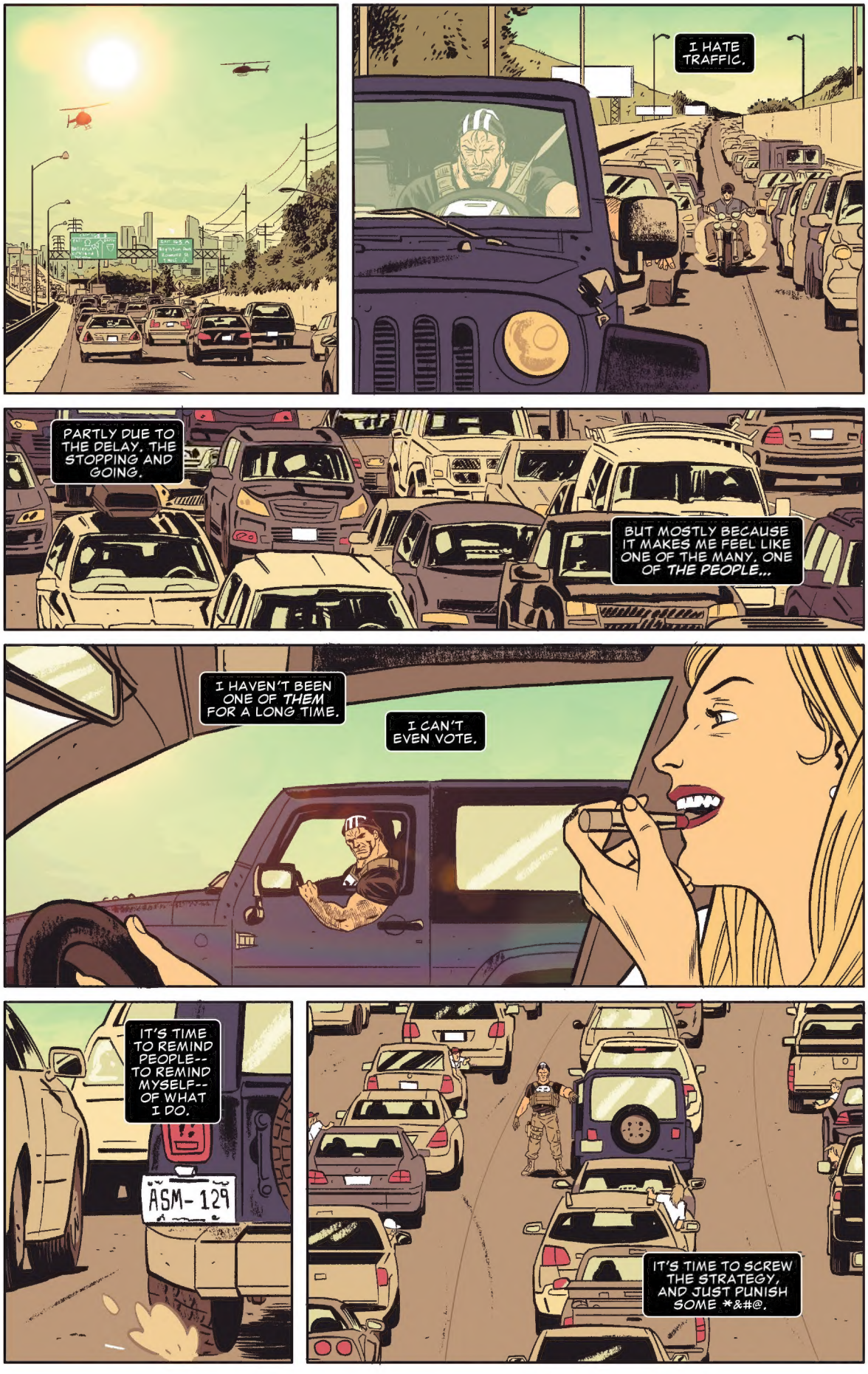
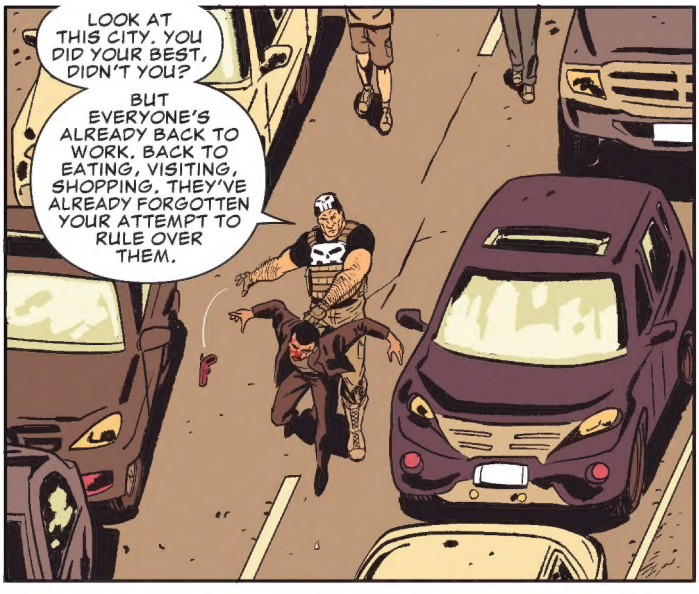
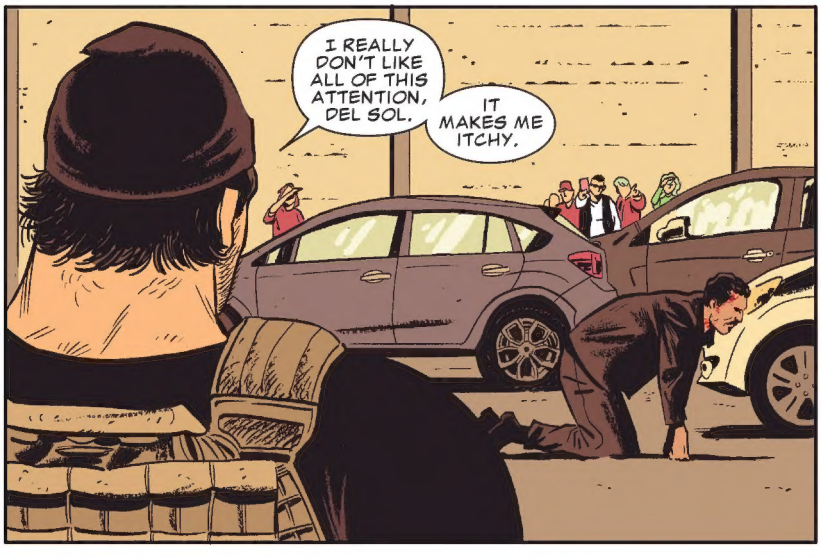
CAN'T BEAT A PLAN WITH NO PLAN.
BUT I'M DONE WITH ALL THAT.
I ONLY NEED TO REMEMBER MY PRINCIPLES.
WHY I STILL DRAW BREATH, WHAT I STAND FOR.
AND WHAT I DON'T.
SOMETIMES, YOU HAVE TO HIT A WALL TO REMEMBER ALL OF THAT.
MANIAC. WE WERE HIRED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT.
I KNOW, DEL SOL. BUT I DON'T FIGHT GOVERNMENTS.
I PUNISH &$ #@.
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH ME?
LIKE I SAID. I'M GOING TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU, HECTOR.
AND THEN I'M GOING TO HAVE BREAKFAST.

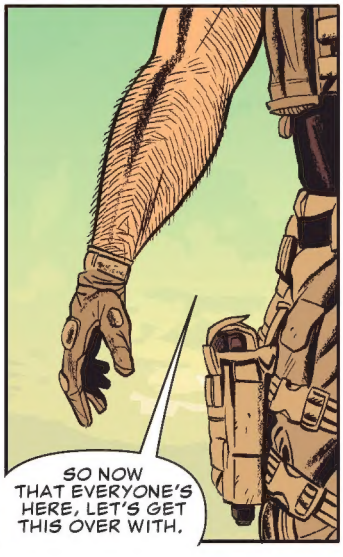

I HATE TRAFFIC.
PARTLY DUE TO THE DELAY. THE STOPPING AND GOING.
BUT MOSTLY BECAUSE IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE ONE OF THE MANY. ONE OF THE PEOPLE...
I HAVEN'T BEEN ONE OF THEM FOR A LONG TIME.
I CAN'T EVEN VOTE.
IT'S TIME TO REMIND PEOPLE-- TO REMIND MYSELF-- OF WHAT I DO.
ASM-129
IT'S TIME TO SCREW THE STRATEGY, AND JUST PUNISH SOME *&#@.

SMILE FOR THE CAMERAS. THEY'RE COMING.


LOOK AT THIS CITY. YOU DID YOUR BEST, DIDN'T YOU?
BUT EVERYONE'S ALREADY BACK TO WORK. BACK TO EATING, VISITING, SHOPPING. THEY'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN YOUR ATTEMPT TO RULE OVER THEM.

YOU KNOW IT. I'LL WEED YOU OUT. ALL OF YOU. WHEREVER I AM.


I REALLY DON'T LIKE ALL OF THIS ATTENTION, DEL SOL.
IT MAKES ME ITCHY.


SO NOW THAT EVERYONE'S HERE, LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

THEY HATE YOU. THE POLICE HATE YOU. THE WORLD HATES YOU. YOU'RE A CRIMINAL.
THIS MAN TRIED TO BRING YOUR CITY TO ITS KNEES. I'M STILL HERE TO DEFEND THIS CITY. TO PUNISH CRIMINALS.
REPORT ON THE SITUATION, UNIT 6!
HE KILLED INNOCENT PEOPLE. HE KILLED COPS.
TO HELL WITH THE POLITICS OF IT.
LISTEN, PLEASE-- PLEASE-- DON'T--
I WAS HOPING YOU'D BEG.

NEWS 12
HAPPENING NOW:
HAS THE PUNISHER RETURNED?
15
CURRENT FOOTAGE OF THE PUNISHER.
NEWS CHANNEL 10
VIGILANTE CAUSES TRAFFIC CONGESTION.
HOSTAGE DRUG LORD
HECTOR DEL SOL?
NEWS 27
Live
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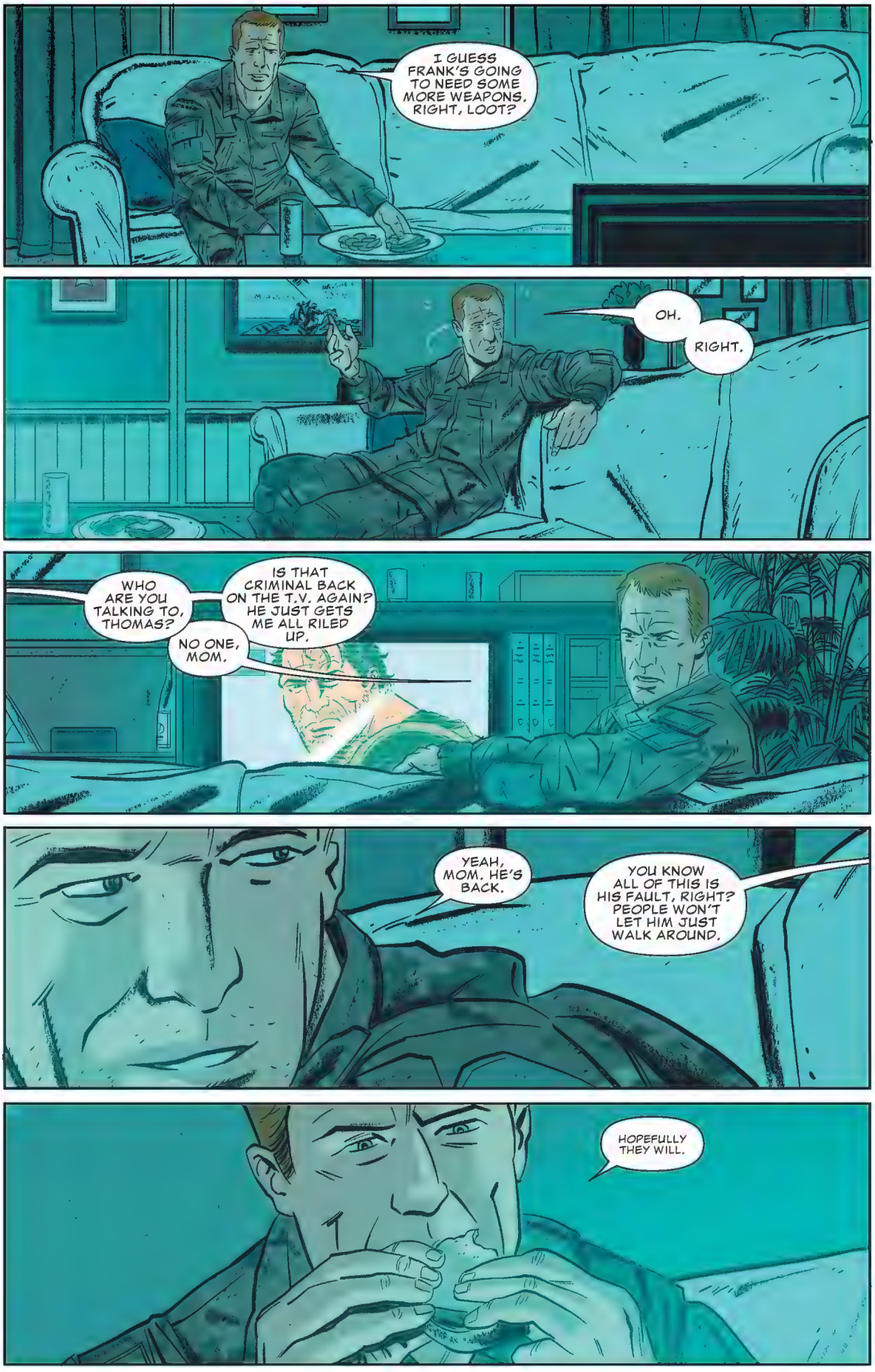
LIVE CELL PHONE VIDEO
OF FRANK CASTLE.
STOP THE PUNISHER! DISABLE HIM! UNIT 6!
LIVE
BREAKING NEWS:
PUNISHER
SIGHTING.
9
NO MORE STRATEGY.

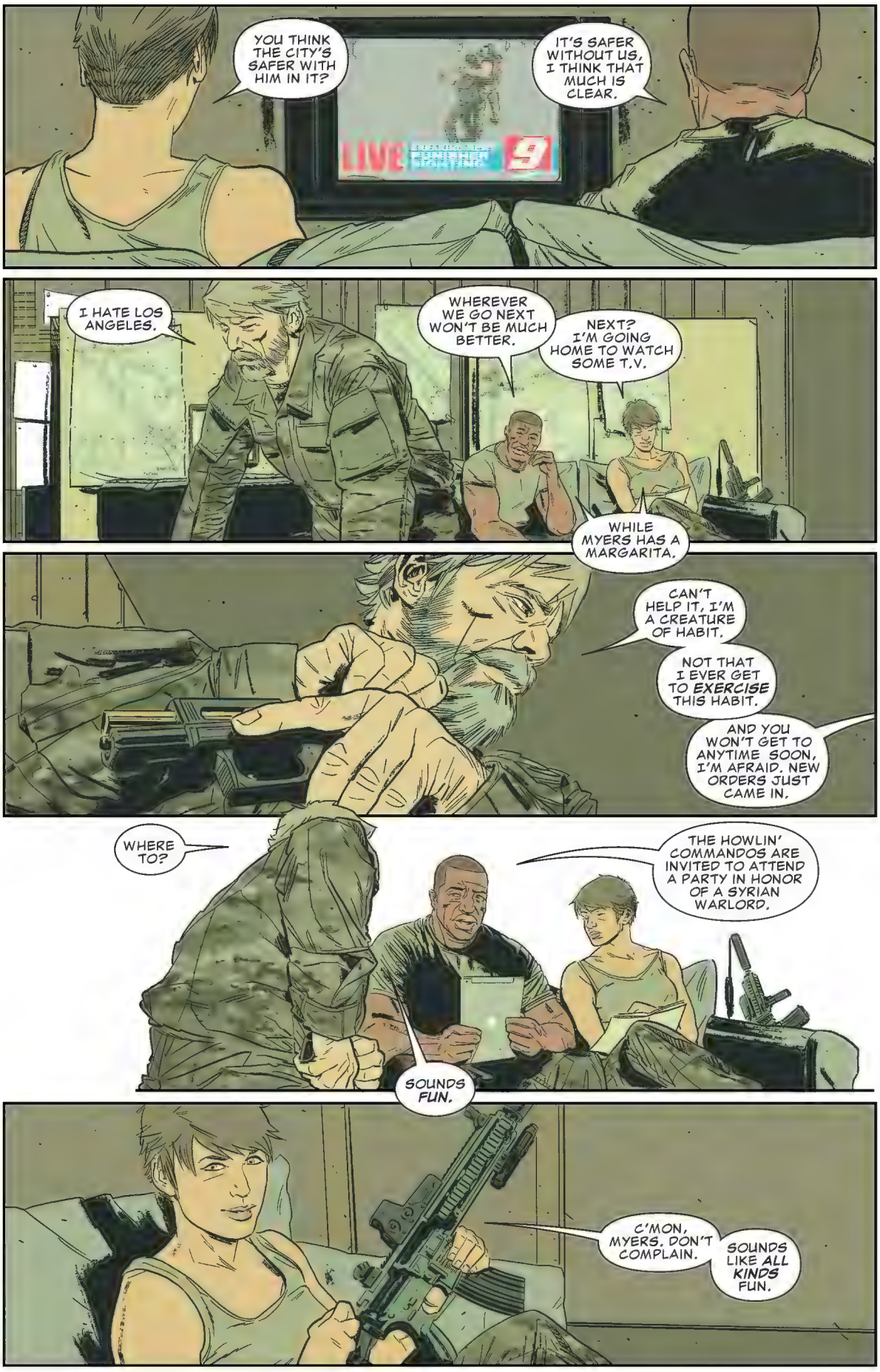
5 SOUTH
LOS ANGELES
AUTOS
AUTOS
405 SOUTH
SANTA MONICA
AUTOS
AUTOS
5
TAKE A
CAL
JUST PUNISHMENT.

UNIT 6, STOP THE PUNISHER--
LET HIM GO.
HE'S NOT A CRIMINAL. HE'S THE PUNISHER.
NOW I'M GOING TO EAT SOME BREAKFAST.

LOU.
YES SIR, MR. CASTLE?
EGGS. COFFEE.
AND A MAPLE BACON DONUT.
NEWS 77
PUNISHER IS BACK IN L.A.
CITY IS SAFE AGAIN

OFFICER SAMMY?
VISITED ME IN THE HOSPITAL. BUT THEN...WELL, WE LOST A LOT OF COPS IN THE RIOTS.
NEEDED YOU HERE, FRANKIE.
I'M HERE FOR THE COPS NOW.
5¢ DINER
5¢ DINER
5¢ DINER


I GUESS FRANK'S GOING TO NEED SOME MORE WEAPONS, RIGHT, LOOT?
OH.
RIGHT.
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO, THOMAS?
IS THAT CRIMINAL BACK ON THE T.V. AGAIN? HE JUST GETS ME ALL RILED UP.
NO ONE, MOM.
YEAH, MOM. HE'S BACK.
YOU KNOW ALL OF THIS IS HIS FAULT, RIGHT? PEOPLE WON'T LET HIM JUST WALK AROUND.
HOPEFULLY THEY WILL.


YOU THINK THE CITY'S SAFER WITH HIM IN IT?
IT'S SAFER WITHOUT US, I THINK THAT MUCH IS CLEAR.
LIVE
I HATE LOS ANGELES.
WHEREVER WE GO NEXT WON'T BE MUCH BETTER.
NEXT? I'M GOING HOME TO WATCH SOME T.V.
WHILE MYERS HAS A MARGARITA.
CAN'T HELP IT, I'M A CREATURE OF HABIT.
NOT THAT I EVER GET TO *EXERCISE* THIS HABIT.
AND YOU WON'T GET TO ANYTIME SOON, I'M AFRAID. NEW ORDERS JUST CAME IN.
WHERE TO?
THE HOWLIN' COMMANDOS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A PARTY IN HONOR OF A SYRIAN WARLORD.
SOUNDS *FUN.*
C'MON, MYERS, DON'T COMPLAIN.
SOUNDS LIKE *ALL KINDS* FUN.

ALL GAINS ARE INCREMENTAL.
BUT NOT EVERYTHING IS A GAIN.
PUNISHER WEAPONS CACHE. DESTROYED BY THE HOWLING COMMANDOS.
IT'S A LONG BALL GAME. A LONG WAR.
MAYBE I HAVEN'T BEEN LOSING.
MAYBE I CAN'T MEASURE MY MISSION IN PROGRESS.
I JUST KNOW I'M NOT DROWNING.
TODAY I DID A GOOD DAY'S WORK.
BUT THE WORK DAY ISN'T OVER.

C'MON BABY.
WE OWN THESE STREETS.
STRUT LIKE THAT THROUGH OUR NEIGHBORHOOD?
WHICH MEANS WE OWN YOU, BABY.
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW I TREAT MY TOY--

GONNA MAKE YOU WISH YOU'D STAYED GONE, OLD MA--
-HERK-

IT'S OKAY, BUD.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN, NOW. YOU'RE SAFE.
OFFICER STONE?
HOW DID I NOT SEE IT, FRANK?
I SAT BESIDE YOU AT *BREAKFAST*. I JUST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU. THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE AN *ACTOR* OR SOMETHING.
AND THEN YOU DID *THIS*.
MORE DEAD THAN I CAN COUNT.
BECAUSE YOU BROKE THE LAW INTO *PIECES*.

EVERYTHING WAS *FINE* UNTIL YOU CAME TO TOWN, *PUNISHER.*
EVERYTHING WAS *FINE!*
OFFICER STONE--
I'M NOT AN *OFFICER* ANYMORE, FRANK.
AND YOU CAN CALL ME *MEMENTO.*
THIS WAS A LONG TIME COMING, CASTLE.
REMEMBER THAT, IN YOUR LAST MOMENTS.

COUGH COUGH ACK
IT'S OKAY, PAL...

I
LA
I
LA
PAIN IS DROWNING.

I NEVER EXPECTED TO MAKE IT OUT OF THIS ALIVE.
THAT'S WHY I WEAR THE SKULL.
IT'S A MEMENTO MORI.